

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

February 19, 2008

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Program Room of the Mansfield Public Library.

I. ROLL CALL

- Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus (6:55 p.m.), Schaefer.

II. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, presented a statistical overview of Mansfield, an update on the Boards of Education proposed or submitted budgets, a review of the proposed budget of the Governor for the fiscal year and an outline of current budget issues. Town Manager Matt Hart described the Town's efforts to include Natchaug Hospital in the PILOT program and efforts to work with the Office of Policy Management and our elected officials to change the way Pequot money is allocated.

Mr. Schaefer left at 7:00 p.m.

Council members agreed to ask the Director of Public Works, Lon Hultgren, to review the details of the Solid Waste Disposal Fund at a future meeting.

Council members discussed the process of "flagging" items during the budget discussions. These items of interest will be identified and a determination made at a later date.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective February 19, 2008, to accept the Financial Statements dated December 31, 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

During the discussion of Council Policy Recommendations Mr. Nesbitt expressed his desire to present a zero mill increase budget this year and suggested prioritizing budget items and a "pay as you go" approach. Mr. Smith will prepare a report showing what cuts would have to be made to the budget in order to have a zero mill increase. Ms. Koehn requested the Town consider a more detailed use of program budgeting and expressed support for spending on issues of sustainability and economic development. Ms. Duffy noted that it will be important to make sure the goals and initiatives of the Strategic Planning Process are included in the budget process.

III. ADJOURNMENT

- Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk